

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00678 200944Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----059609 200949Z /10

R 200430Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5952
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: MODE-EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 66110

1. I FULLY APPRECIATE AND SHARE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO ABOLISH
UNNEEDED USG EMPLOYMENT ABROAD& FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR NOW I
HAVE BEEN POINTING OUT THAT REGIONAL AID ATTACHE POSITION HERE,
AND AID SECRETARY POSITION WHICH SUPPORTS ATTACHE, MOST
DEFINITELY ARE TWO POSITIONS WHICH COULD AND SHOULD BE
ABOLISHED. THIS WAS NOT MY JUDGMENT ALONE: SURVEYED ON
QURESTION DURING APRIL 1977, AMBASSADORS MAESTRONE (KUWAIT),
AND DICKMAN (ABU DHABI), AND FORMER AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI (QATAR'
SHARED MY VIEW. AMBASSADOR WOLLE (OMAN) VIEWED POSITION SOMEWHAT
MORE FAVORABLY. ATTACHE POSITION HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE
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AUGUST 1977; SECRETARY HAS BEEN UNDEREMPLOYED. TAXPAYERS'
DOLLARS HAVE BEEN WASTED.

2. MY RECOMMENDATION THAT REGIONAL AID ATTACHE OFFICE BE
ABOLISHED STILL STANDS, AND WILL BE REFLECTED IN ZERO BASED
BUDGET EXERCISE IN WHICH WE ARE NOW ENGAGED. RESPONSE TO
THIS LONG-STANDING RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN SIMPLY THAT AID

INTENDS TO FILL THIS POSITION, REGARDLESS. THERE HAS BEEN NO PERSUASIVE RATIONALE ADVANCED IN SUPPORT OF POSITION, NO JUSTIFICATION WEIGHTY ENOUGH TO OVERRULE JUDGMENTS OF FOUR CHIEFS OF MISSION. I UNDERSTAND THAT AID, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN "ACTIVELY RECRUITING" FOR POSITION SINCE SEPT 1977, MAY BE ON VERGE OF FILLING IT. I URGE THAT DEPT AT LEAST DELAY ANY SUCH ACTION UNTIL OTHER POSTS CONCERNED CAN REVIEW AND CONFIRM OR CHANGE JUDGMENTS THEY MADE IN APRIL 1977. SCOPE FOR ATTACHE'S EFFORTS HERE EVEN GARROWER NOW THAN IT WAS AT THAT TIME.

3. I AM NOT UNMINDFUL THAT AID HAS CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO STIMULATE REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. DOING SO BY STATIONING REGIONAL AID ATTACHE IN GULF WAS "IFFY" CONCEPT FROM THE OUTSET AND POSTS' JUDGMENTS REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE RENDERED AFTER FIRST INCUMBENT, AN ABLE MAN, HAD BEEN ON THE JOB SOME SEVEN MONTHS. IT IS TIME, I FEEL, AND REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS STRENGTHEN MY FEELING, TO TELL AID THAT REGIONAL AID ATTACHE NOT EEEDED IN GULF. AID SHOULD SEEK TO MEET ITS MANDATE, AND EXPEND ITS BUDGET, IN DIFFERENT FASHION OR IN AREA WITH GREATER PROMISE. COSTS HERE ARE TOO HIGH AND RESULTS LIKELY TO BE TOO MEAGER TO JUSTIFY RETAINING THESE POSITIONS.
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